In addition, in-vitro testing of lines for salt tolerance have indicated that a few callus masses could withstand higher concentration (1-1.5 per cent) of salt. Further studies are in progress.

(c) No separate data for production of basmati rice is available. Figures for basmati rice exported during the last two years are given below:—

Year	Quantity exported (in 000 tonnes)
1986-87	237
1987-88	366

Requirement of edible oil

2667. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of edible oil required in the country per annum for consumption:

(b) the total quantity improted every year to meet the demand;

(c) what are the channels of distribution and whether States get the quota on population basis; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to meet the short-fall of edible oil in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The total requirement of edible oils in the country during the oil year 1988-89 is estimated to be about 58.18 lakh MTs.

(b) The quantum of edible oils to be imported is decided by the Government from time to time, keeping in view the gap between demand and supply of indigenous edible oils, availability of foreign exchange, prices of indigenous edible oils in the open market and other related factors. The total quantity of edible oils imported during the oil year 1987-88 was about 18.19 lakh MTs.

(c) Imported edible oils are allocated to the States/UTs for distribution under the Public Distribution System through the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. Population is not the only basis of determining the quota of edible oil allocation to a particular State. The allocation also depends upon the demand, availability of indigenous oils in the State, pace of lifting, management of edible oils allocated earlier etc.

(d) The Government imports edible oils every year to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

Sugar Mills in the country

2668. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sugar mills in private and cooperative sectors existing in the country;

(b) how many sugar mills have been set up during the Seventh Five Year Plan and proposed to be set up during last two years of the Plan;

(c) whether Government of Orissa has given any proposal to set up any new sugar mill in that State;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount earmarked for establishment of Sugar factory during the Seventh Five Year Plan and amount released so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) There are 211 sugar mills in Cooperative Sector and 119 mills in Private Sector installed in the country as on 15-11-1988.

(b) 28 new sugar mills have been set up during the first three years of the 7th Five Year Plan against the letters of intent|licences issued prior to 7th Plan. 7

sugar mills are likely to be set up during the remaining 2 years of the 7th Plan period against the letters of intent/licences issued during the 7th Five Year Plan period and earlier.

(c) and (d) The following three proposals for setting up of new sugar mills of 2500 TCD capacity each in the State of Orissa are pending before the Government (Department of Food):—

(i) Tal. Nawarangpur, Distt. Koraput.

(ii) Place & District Bolangir.

(iii) Tal. Place Dharamgarh Distt. Kalahandi.

(e) The Central Government do not earmark any amount for establishment of sugar factories.

Arrears of provident fund due from Public Sector

2669. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the amount of arrears due from public sector units during 1986-87 and 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): The amount of arrears were as given below:—

(Rupees in crores)

As on	Exempted Establishments	Un-exempted Establishments
31-3-87 . . .	21.42	12.80
31-3-88 . . .	28.48	15.89

Bungling in Consumer Federation

2670. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which published in Hindustan Times dated 8th September, 1988 under the caption 'Bungling in Consumer Federation' alleging Management-Auditor collusion in the tax audit of NCCF;

(b) whether the income tax Department has initiated any action on the matters of reported improper valuation of stocks for showing losses and manipulation of tax audit under section 44AB of Income Tax Act; and

(c) if so, what and if not why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A contradiction to the news item from the NCCF was also published by the Hindustan Times Newspaper on 5-10-1988.

(b) and (c) The NCCF have filed the tax return for the Accounting year 1986-87. No communication has been received from the Income Tax authorities.

Black marketing of Janta cloth by NCCF, Kanpur

2671. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2981 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the news item published in Jansatta on the 1st September, 1988 under the caption 'Jaren Khod Rahe Hein Afsar' alleging hube take production of JANTA CLOTH CARRY-2981 given in the Rajya Sabha on the per Sq. metre was shown during 5 days from 26th to 31st March, 1988;

(b) whether it is a fact that NCCF lifted this alleged production in violation of the instructions of State Government and shown to be issued to the cooperatives;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are complaints that same branch